

WebPicks

We are excited to introduce PPLD's NEW Summer Adventure! **Build a Better World.** Ages 0 - 11

What's different about PPLD's **Summer Adventure**?

- Users create an online account to complete activities within the following challenges: **Make Tech, Read, Play, Listen, Write, and Explore.**
- After earning a badge for each challenge, they can display their name on our **"Builders' Wall"** at any PPLD library.
- The **Junior Builder**, who has three online badges, receives a free tattoo from the library.
- The **Expert Builder**, who has all seven badges, receives a free book!
- The **Master Engineer**, who completes all 70 challenge activities for our bonus game will receive a Master Engineer button.
- This allows children to track their own progress digitally, if they want, and provides tailored book and app recommendations, along with information about free library events.
- It also offers ways for caregivers to manage all of their children's accounts at once.

In addition, we have a new program for teens (12 - 18), who will choose challenges that meet their interests, whether it is **"Reading the Outdoors"**, **"Exploring the Outdoors"**, or **"Learning to Code."**

Register at ppld.beanstack.org beginning May 1.

Teen Activity: Become a Volunteer

1. Join the Summer Adventure online at ppld.beanstack.org.
 2. Select the "Become a Volunteer" Challenge.
 3. Complete at least four of the eight listed activities.
- Sample activities include:
- a. Research volunteer options. Find and list at least three organizations at which you would like and be able to volunteer.
 - b. Read a book in the field for which you would like to volunteer.
 - c. Fill out and turn in two volunteer applications to the organizations of your choice.
 - d. Volunteer at least four hours.

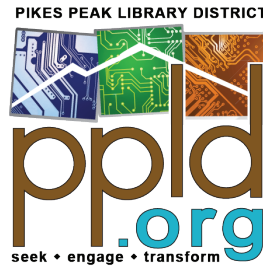
Volunteering Booklist

- J-Fiction** (chapter books)
- CREE** *Moo* by Sharon Creech
- GEOR** *Clover's Luck* by Kallie George
- LORD** *Shelter Pet Squad* by Cynthia Lord
- SCHR** *Caitlin's Lucky Charm* by Lisa Schroeder
- J-Nonfiction**
- 177.7 HERB** *Random Kindness & Senseless Acts of Beauty* by Anne Herbert & Margaret Paloma Pavel
- 179.3 F991K** *Kids Making a Difference for Animals* by Nancy Furstinger and Dr. Sheryl L. Pipe
- 303.48092 R943P** *Pay It Forward Kids* by Nancy Runstedler
- 361.20835 CONN** *Young Enough to Change the World* by Michael R. Connolly and Brie K. Goolbis
- 361.37 058V** *Volunteering in Your School* by Claire O'Neal
- J-Easy**
- BERE** *The Berenstain Bears Lend a Helping Hand* by Stan & Jan Berenstain
- BERE** *The Berenstain Bears Think of Those in Need* by Stan & Jan Berenstain
- BRID** *Clifford's Good Deeds* by Norman Bridwell
- CUYL** *Kindness is Cooler, Mrs. Ruler* by Margery Cuyler
- DILL** *If Kids Ran the World* by Leo & Diane Dillon

Teens

- Fiction**
- The Leaving Season** by Cat Jordan
- Blazing Courage** by Jeannie Mobley
- Even If the Sky Falls** by Mia Garcia
- Ripper** by Amy Carol Reeves
- All the Right Stuff** by Walter Dean Myers
- Nonfiction**
- The Teen Guide to Global Action: How to Connect with Others (Near and Far) to Create Social Change** by Barbara A. Lewis **303.484 L673T**
- Yanks in the RAF: The Story of Maverick Pilots and American Volunteers Who Joined Britain's Fight in WWII** by David Johnson **940.544941 JOHN**
- Chicken Soup for the Volunteer's Soul: Stories to Celebrate the Spirit of Courage, Caring and Community** by Jack Canfield **361.37 C533**
- Rescuing Penny Jane: One Shelter Volunteer, Countless Dogs, and the Quest to Find Them All Homes** by Amy Sutherland **636.70887 SUTH**
- Wide-open World: How Volunteering around the Globe Changed One Family's Lives Forever** by John Marshall **910.41 MARS**

Tell us what you think! We welcome topical ideas to enhance your educational endeavors. Contact jfleishhacker@ppld.org



PIKES PEAK LIBRARY DISTRICT

HOMESCHOOL CONNECTIONS

An Educational Resource Tool Summer 2017

"The Family that Volunteers Together..."

Why should you volunteer as a family? With all the commitments, activities, and demands on your time, why add one more thing to your list? The simplest answer is this: "Volunteering is good for others... If people never help each other and only care about themselves, the world becomes a crueller, sadder place." (PBS Kids, 2005). Volunteering as a family allows your children to see positive role models giving back to the community, allows your children to get involved and develop empathy for others who may not have the same resources as your family, and gives you a chance to spend time together as a family.

There is a litany of positive benefits that come from volunteering, including things like, "[m]aking new friends, gaining important skills and experience that will help you later in life, building confidence and self-esteem, getting active and healthier, relieving stress, and having fun" (PBS Kids, 2005).

There are all sorts of ways to volunteer as a family. These can be as drastic as leaving everything behind and volunteering around the world for six months (as chronicled by John Marshall in the book *Wide-Open World*) or as simple as shoveling the sidewalk for a neighbor (*Ways to Help in Your Community* by Claire O'Neal). Volunteer opportunities are all around us. Many places have plenty of summer volunteers, but due to work and school schedules, lose volunteers in the fall. Fall and winter volunteering is a great opportunity for homeschool families who may have more flexibility during those seasons. Some local places with volunteer opportunities include Silver Key, Springs Rescue Mission, or the Salvation Army. Or you can choose a project in your community or neighborhood, perhaps even becoming "secret volunteers" who help others anonymously.

Here are some great library book resources for ideas to get started:

- Ways to Help in Your Community** by Claire O'Neal
- The Kid's Guide to Service Projects** by Barbara A. Lewis
- The Teen Guide to Global Action** by Barbara A. Lewis

For inspiration, check out these two books also available in the library:

- Young Enough to Change the World** by Michael R. Connolly and Brie K. Goolbis
- Wide-Open World** by John Marshall

Additional resources from **PBSKids.org**:

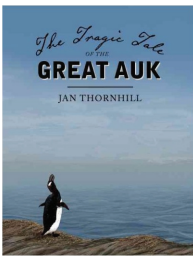
- Volunteering: Why Should I do It?** tinyurl.com/PBSKidsVolunteering
- Zoom into Action: Family Guide to Volunteering** tinyurl.com/PBSVolunteerGuide



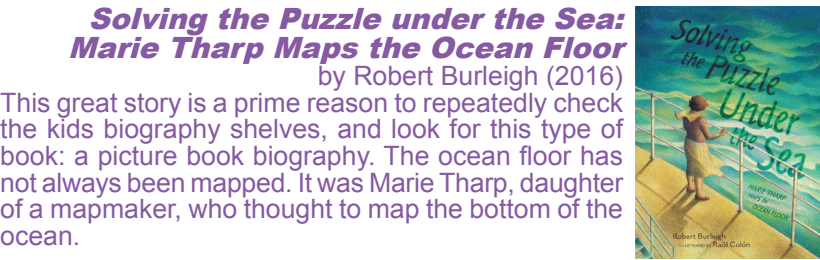
To contact PPLD's Homeschool Committee, please email jfleishhacker@ppld.org



The ^{new} BookShelf
great new books for homeschoolers



The Tragic Tale of the Great Auk
by Jan Thornhill (2016)
Science is easier to “teach” if we just read all those kids books shelved in the 500s on the library shelves. This beautiful new book tells the story of a bird, the Great Auk, and how its own big body led to its extinction. In picture book format, the book is easy to read in a single session.
Science, Biology, Animal Studies (ages 6 - 12)

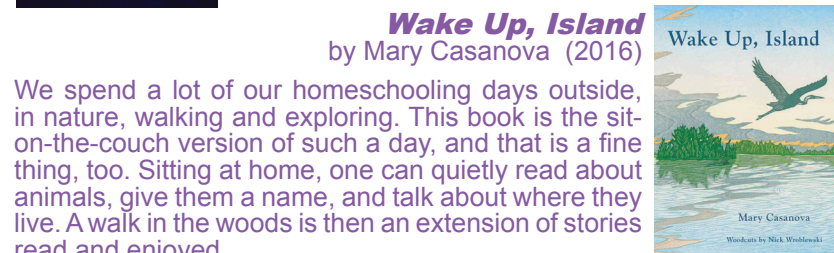


Solving the Puzzle under the Sea: Marie Tharp Maps the Ocean Floor
by Robert Burleigh (2016)
This great story is a prime reason to repeatedly check the kids biography shelves, and look for this type of book: a picture book biography. The ocean floor has not always been mapped. It was Marie Tharp, daughter of a mapmaker, who thought to map the bottom of the ocean.

Science, Biography (ages 6 - 12)

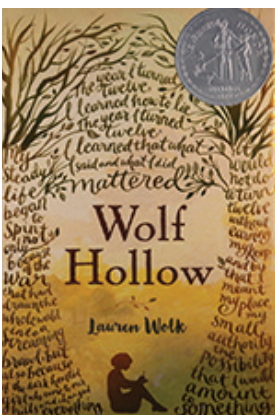


In the Red Canoe by Leslie A. Davidson (2016)
Does your homeschooling take you outdoors? Do you walk along rivers or paddle across lakes? Read this book, a delightful-filled trip of a little girl and her grandpa paddling a canoe across the lake. Wildlife is spotted and mild adventures ensue.
Science, Wildlife, Nature Studies (ages 3 - 8)



Wake Up, Island
by Mary Casanova (2016)
We spend a lot of our homeschooling days outside, in nature, walking and exploring. This book is the sit-on-the-couch version of such a day, and that is a fine thing, too. Sitting at home, one can quietly read about animals, give them a name, and talk about where they live. A walk in the woods is then an extension of stories read and enjoyed.

Science, Wildlife, Nature Studies (ages 3 - 8)



Wolf Hollow by Lauren Wolk (2016)
Newbery Honor Book 2017
First of all, this book is for teens and older. Set in rural Pennsylvania, 1943, it is about many things: what one says, believing in others, even if they are different from you, and trying to find the right thing to do. The reader is outraged when Annabelle is targeted for cruel treatment by another girl. I could not put the book down. Please read the book description before handing it to your child. Better still, read it yourself first.
Historical Fiction (ages 12+)

Little-Known Secrets



lynda.com

Lynda.com is a high-level digital product for motivated tweens, teens and adults. Video instruction on a plethora of tech-type topics is available once you create your account. Look for **Lynda.com** under **Job Search and Career Tools** or **ppld.org**. You will need a library card to create your free account.

The main topics are photography, web development/programming/IT, documentaries (with many videos showing how other people have accomplished their creative goals), and business interests, such as Microsoft Office.

There is a search function that might find exactly what you are looking for, or perhaps a snippet of a bigger presentation that pertains to the search term you used.

Best uses for homeschoolers will probably be in the photography and web/IT type sections, as this ends up being similar to hiring an instructor for your older child. If you have a budding entrepreneur, then the documentary section may be a great instructional tool.

Recommended is the instructional video on using **Lynda.com** – “**How to Use Lynda.com**” – which is 87 minutes long. This is marked as a beginner course.

Homeschool Events

FREE! Curriculum Give & Take
Revitalize your family’s learning resources or start your homeschool library at our annual **Curriculum Give & Take!** Bring curriculum items you’re willing to share and find gently-used items other families are ready to part with. No money will be exchanged. Contact Joy at jfleishhacker@ppld.org or (719) 531-6333, x1407 if you plan on bringing curriculum to swap so we can reserve a table for you. Hope to see you there!
Thu., June 29 • 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.
East Library

Homeschool Resource Fair
Visit with local organizations and learn how they can help you educate your children. Resources represented will include enrichment programs, scouting, lessons, field trip destinations, support groups, and so much more. Add it to your calendar today!
Fri., Aug. 11 • 9 a.m. - noon • Library 21c



Game Day
Join in playing outdoors with other homeschool families at our Game Day behind East Library in George Fellows Park. We’ll provide balls, jump ropes, chalk, bubbles, and ideas for some fun games, but we encourage you to bring your own games as well. All ages are welcome and teens are needed to help direct play. In case of bad weather, this event will be cancelled. Contact Joy at jfleishhacker@ppld.org or (719) 531-6333, x1407 with questions. Come prepared to play!
Fri., Aug. 25 • 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. • East Library
(George Fellows Park)

Teen Programs

Breakout Room
Use your wits to escape a room before time runs out! Multiple locations and multiple times. See ppld.org/teens for details.

Seven Weeks of STREAM for Teens
Celebrate summer with seven weeks of Science, Technology, Robotics, Engineering, Art, and Math!
Wednesdays • 4 - 6 p.m.
(during Summer Adventure)
Old Colorado City Library

Coding Camp for Beginners: Build a Computer Game!
Coding Camp will teach teens interested in learning about coding the basics of block coding and introduce them to JavaScript. By the end of the camp, teens will have built a computer game using Scratch. Teens should be prepared to attend all sessions.
Mon., June 26 - Fri., June 30
1 - 3 p.m. • East Library

Rainforest Conservation
Travel deep into the jungle and learn about the animals that live there and why rain forests are important. Participants will be invited to interact with live animals from the rain forest and engage in various art projects and science activities in this informative and fun program. Registration required. Space is limited. Ages 7 - 18.
Thu., June 29 • 2 - 4 p.m. • Ruth Holley Library

Storytelling Camp
Learn how to write and tell amazing stories at Storytelling Camp!
Mon., July 10 - Friday, July 14
noon - 3 p.m. • Penrose Library

Bloxels Bootcamp
Spend a week at bootcamp learning to make your own video game using Bloxels!
Mon., July 24 - Fri., July 28
1 - 3 p.m. • Library 21c

Everything
changed when
night fell.

Teen Fiction Writing Contest
A writing contest for El Paso County residents aged 12 - 18. Visit ppld.org/teens for rules, submission form, and information.
Submissions due
Sun., June 25 • 11:59 p.m.